

No. 8 February 23, 1981

# BEIJING REVIEW

北京周报

A CHINESE WEEKLY  
OF  
NEWS AND VIEWS

- Deng Xiaoping Answers French Correspondents
- China's First High-Flux Atomic Reactor
- How Criminals Are Reformed





## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

### French Socialists in China

A delegation headed by Francois Mitterrand holds talks with Chinese Party leaders, revealing extensive agreement between the two parties. China's reception of this delegation is also an indication of its willingness to establish friendly relations with other socialist parties in Europe (pp. 5-6).

### China's Foreign Trade Increases

An official review of China's expanding trade and economic co-operation with foreign countries during the past year. Future prospects for such co-operation are also discussed (pp. 20-21).

### Non-Aligned Conference

Positive moves at the recent New Delhi conference demon-

strate the vitality of the 20-year-old movement (pp. 11-12).

### Solidarity of Persian Gulf Countries

Beijing Review news analyst comments on the decision of the recent Riyadh conference to set up a co-operative council of six littoral states (pp. 12-13).

### Japan's Four Northern Islands

An analysis of the Soviet intention to perpetuate its occupation of Japan's northern territories (pp. 14-15).

### China Builds High-Flux Atomic Reactor

How the spirit of self-reliance brings about this remarkable success (pp. 7-8).

## Forum on Aim of Socialist Production

A discussion by Chinese economists on a theoretical question which has a direct bearing on China's economic development (pp. 16-20).

### China Fights Crime

This special feature on a prison and a reformatory of Beijing gives an insight into the Chinese way of handling criminals and juvenile delinquents (pp. 22-29).



Grain for the state granaries.

## BEIJING REVIEW

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## Dazhai Production Brigade

**What has happened to Dazhai? Why is it that China no longer advocates "In agriculture, learn from Dazhai"?**

Dazhai is well-known in China as well as in the rest of the world. Foreigners perhaps know a lot about this north China mountain village of the early 60s, but little about the fundamental changes that took place there during the ten chaotic years from 1966 to 1976.

Dazhai was an advanced model during the agricultural co-operative movement in the early 50s. When a serious flood hit the brigade in 1963, it relied on its own efforts instead of help from the state to overcome the natural disaster and succeeded in gathering a rich harvest. In 1964, Chairman Mao exhorted all the rural communes to learn from its revolutionary spirit. Later, Premier Zhou Enlai summed up Dazhai's experiences as: (1) the principle of putting politics in command and ideology first, (2) the spirit of self-reliance and hard struggle, and (3) the communist style of loving the state and the collective. Premier Zhou said that these were the basic experiences that should be popularized.

Since the start of the "cultural revolution," these three basic experiences were discarded and replaced with "Leftist" stuff. The Dazhai Brigade, which carried out the "Left" line, was deified as an advanced "political model" of all times and in all circumstances.

Following are some examples of their "Leftist" errors:

- Carrying out man-made class struggles. Many cadres

and commune members were unwarrantedly branded as class enemies. They were criticized and persecuted, and some were hounded to death.

- Blindly changing the ownership of the means of production. The level of production in the Dazhai Production Brigade was not high, yet the ownership of the means of production by the brigade was prematurely changed into ownership by the people's commune. This violated the principle that the relations of production must conform to the level of development of the productive forces, and thereby undermined agricultural production.

- Banning all domestic sidelines and depriving the commune members of small plots of land for private use; obstructing the development of commune- and brigade-run industries, sideline occupations, forestry and animal husbandry, and abolishing all rural fairs. Worthy of note was the fact that all this was done under such "revolutionary" slogans as "cutting the tail of capitalism" and "blocking the road to capitalism."

- Violating the principle of distribution according to the

work done and carrying out absolute equalitarianism. This dampened the enthusiasm of the commune members for production.

The popularization of the experiences of such a "model" throughout the country during the "cultural revolution" seriously damaged agricultural production.

China is a vast country where natural conditions and the level of economic development differ from place to place. There are advanced experiences in every place and every field of work. Therefore, to make the experiences of one model the sole pattern for the whole country to follow in disregard of actual conditions inevitably would result in mistakes and losses.

The movement to learn from Dazhai in agriculture in the early 60s was successful because at that time the stress was laid on learning from its revolutionary spirit. After the start of the "cultural revolution," however, "the model of Dazhai" has turned into its opposite. This taught the people a negative lesson, that is, movements like "the whole country must learn from Dazhai in agriculture" should never be launched again.

— *Economic Editor*  
Wang Dacheng

## China and Iraq

**Has China agreed to sell enriched uranium to Iraq for making atom bombs?**

This is sheer fabrication. A certain foreign news agency reported that the deal was made between Chinese officials and the Iraqi side in Baghdad last

December and that the quantity to be sold was enough for two atom bombs, and so forth. The fact was that no Chinese officials visited Iraq last December, still less that any negotiations in this regard took place.

— *International Editor* Guo Ji



## LETTERS

### Principle of Independence

"Principle of Independence of the Parties of Various Countries" (issue No. 46, 1980) is an excellent article which refutes the erroneous and dangerous concept that the socialist movement should have a centre. It is dangerous for the Communist Parties of all countries to define their orientation in accordance with a socialist centre, for this neglects the necessary conditions for building socialism in each country. Socialist construction in the People's Republic of China is different from that in Yugoslavia. The Soviet Union alone benefits from the concept of a socialist centre. Although the Soviet social-imperialists have paid lip service to independence, they have acted quite differently. Your article defends the principle of independence and repulses the imperialist and revisionist theory of intervention. Today the Soviet bloc still wants to reinforce the concept of a socialist centre so as to control the policies of other Communist Parties and thereby turn these Parties into its satellites.

**Jurgen Weis**  
Frankfurt, W. Germany

### About Kang Sheng

During the heyday of the gang of four, Kang Sheng was praised to the hilt as an ardent revolutionary, yet reports now indicate that he was one of the architects of the tumultuous "cultural revolution." May we hear more about Kang Sheng?

**Stephen Isabirye**  
Kampala, Uganda

Thank you for your suggestions. "Beijing Review" will soon carry articles about Kang Sheng. — Ed.

### Military Sales to Taiwan

There are many progressive people in the Netherlands who disapprove the selling of military goods to Taiwan by the RSV-concern. There was for instance a protest-telegram of Rotterdam dockworkers to the Dutch Parliament.

All this once again shows that for a capitalist and for a capitalist government, profit goes before principle. For profit they will sell military goods to regimes like that of Taiwan or South Africa or even to the devil. If the Dutch Government can get away with this, then the road is open for other countries to do the same. It is therefore necessary that the Chinese Government takes severe measures against this.

As a Dutch citizen I want you to know that I fully support the steps taken by the Chinese Government against the Dutch Government.

The policy of "two Chinas" may not be tolerated.

**Helmie van Schijndel**  
Amsterdam, the Netherlands

### On the New Columns

Congratulations to the editorial board on its important new column. Please try to give information on issues in China which are likely to be misunderstood abroad.

**Dinesh Acharya**  
Kathmandu, Nepal

I was particularly interested in the articles "Economic Reform and Readjustment" and "Foreign Funds and Capitalism" in the "Notes From the Editors" column of issue No. 4.

**Bernhard Hildebrandt**  
Hattingen, W. Germany

"Historical Documents of the Chinese Revolution," *Renmin Ribao* editorial, and the new "Notes From the Editors" column in your issue No. 1 have all left a deep impression on me.

It would be better if the introduction to "Notes From the Editors" is boxed or made more striking. More efforts could be put into the subheads on this page.

**Tamotsu Kurosaki**  
Fukuyama, Japan

I enjoy your caustic cartoons which expose the problems of China.

**Thomas Klein**  
Bielefeld, W. Germany

### Cover and Pictures

Compared with the importance of the subject matter, I think the standard of the graphic and general presentation does not match up to it — it seems turgid when it should be crisp and reflect a zestful pioneering spirit. Why are the typefaces so dull?

Regarding the front cover: ruled lines at the bottom of the page don't improve its appearance. One well-chosen photo, drawing, or diagram is much more effective than a photo montage. (Perhaps more use can be made of diagrams, graphs, etc., as visual aids to the text, so that much unnecessary waffle can be dispensed with.) I think the headings should be redesigned — they are too "bitty" and not very easy on the eye.

**G. N. Henshaw**  
Staffs, U.K.

Covers should show the different peoples of China (for instance, the cover for issue No. 46, 1980 of minority students). But in illustrations, more action photographs would be better, not just people sitting looking at the camera or at another person.

**Harvey Broadbent**  
Sydney, Australia

I like the cover of issue No. 43, 1980 (the issue which discussed the great importance the Chinese Government attaches to solving the problem of employment for 20 million people).

The illustrations, cartoons and maps are superb, as they help tell what the articles are about.

**Edward Nawurah**  
Tema, Ghana





## FOREIGN RELATIONS

### Formal Relations With French Socialist Party Established

The political delegation of the French Socialist Party led by its leader Francois Mitterrand visited China from February 9 to 16 at the invitation of General Secretary of the C.P.C. Central Committee Hu Yaobang. During its stay in China, official relations between the Communist Party of China and the Socialist Party of France were established and mutual understanding and friendship strengthened. This development will undoubtedly further strengthen the friendship between the Chinese and French peoples and contribute to world peace.

The French Socialist Party is an important political force in France. It has promoted friendship with China and actively helped in bringing about the establishment of diplomatic relations between France and China. Many friends from the French Socialist Party have over the years visited China. Mitterrand himself came in 1961 and met with Chairman Mao Zedong. But on a Party-to-Party basis, this is the first formal contact between the two Parties.

Apart from the two meetings with Hu Yaobang, the delegation held formal talks with Li Xiannian and met with Deng Xiaoping, both Vice-Chairmen of the C.P.C. Central Committee. On these occasions, the two sides shared information on the political and economic situation in

their own countries and frankly exchanged views on international issues of mutual interests.

The talks were carried out in an atmosphere of complete equality. While seeking common ground, they reserved their differences. Though the two Parties have different views on some issues, the results of the talks revealed their extensive agreement.

**International Situation.** Both sides expressed concern over the present international situation in which world peace is under serious threat. Li Xiannian explained in detail the views of the Chinese Communist Party on the international situation and noted that the root cause of turbulence in the world, as well as a major factor leading to war, lay in the Soviet global expansionist policy. Mitterrand mentioned the increasing threat to Western Europe posed by the Soviet Union, especially its deployment of SS-20 guided missiles trained on West European countries. He reaffirmed that the French Socialists uphold European construction, favour the West European countries' efforts to strengthen their defences and look forward to the Reagan Administration of the United States forming an equal partnership with these countries.

Both sides made it clear that they unconditionally respect the other countries' sovereignty, dignity and territorial integrity, and condemn the Soviet aggression against Afghanistan and the Vietnamese aggression against Kampuchea. Mitterrand said the French Socialists hold that any real solution to the Afghan question

would hinge on the Soviet withdrawal of its troops from that country. The Chinese Communist Party expressed its appreciation of this clear-cut and principled stand.

Both Parties expressed the hope that Iran and Iraq will end their war through negotiation.

The French Socialists called on all developed countries to render more assistance to the developing countries and establish closer and more fruitful links with the non-aligned and third world countries. The Chinese Communist Party also appreciated this position.

**Bilateral Relations.** Ways of establishing regular contacts and expanding relations between the two Parties were also explored. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the talks. Mitterrand considered that the talks are fruitful. Deng Xiaoping said the visit of the French Socialists has laid a "foundation for continuing the friendship between the two Parties."

**Unity of Political Forces.** The Chinese Communist Party's invitation to French Socialists to visit China is also an indication of its willingness to establish and develop friendly relations with other socialist parties in Europe. The Chinese Communists hold that the present turbulent international situation requires that more political forces of the world unite. As the hegemonists expand and make troubles everywhere, it is not possible to rely on a few countries and political parties to effectively check the hegemonists' aggressive and expansionist acts and defend world peace. All countries and political parties that uphold justice, oppose ag-



## Deng Xiaoping's Interview With French Journalists

During his meeting with French journalists visiting China together with the French Socialist Party's political delegation on February 12, Vice-Chairman Deng Xiaoping answered their questions.

**Sihanouk's New Attitude Welcomed.** Asked about his impression of Samdech Sihanouk's latest proposal to unite with all other patriotic forces in Kampuchea, he said: "We welcome this new attitude of Samdech Sihanouk. He said he would unite with Democratic Kampuchea. This is a new stance of positive significance and we welcome it."

**Polish Question.** Asked what would be China's reaction if the Soviet Union were to launch an armed invasion of Poland, Deng Xiaoping said: "This danger always exists. We would not show approval and we would oppose it from the angle of mo-

rality and justice. Generally speaking, we are opposed to encroachment on any country's sovereignty. The same applies to the Soviet invasion and occupation of Afghanistan."

**Assessment of Chairman Mao.** In reply to a question about the assessment of Chairman Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping said: "We will always uphold Mao Zedong Thought. Chairman Mao Zedong did have mistakes in his late years but, taken as a whole, his contributions to the Chinese people and the Chinese revolution are very great. His merits are primary and his mistakes, though we need to explain them clearly, are secondary."

**Hua Is Still the Party's Chairman.** Asked why Chairman Hua Guofeng had not appeared on public occasions lately, Deng Xiaoping said: "He showed up only a few days ago. He is still the Chairman of our Party. There has been much speculation these days and this sort of speculation is meaning-

less. Change of personnel of one kind or another is commonplace in any country or Party. There is nothing strange about it."

**The Sentence on Jiang Qing Is Appropriate.** A journalist asked how he viewed responses in the West to the sentencing of Jiang Qing, Deng Xiaoping said: "There have been all types of responses. Some think the sentence is too light and others think it is too heavy. But this is China's own affair. The Chinese people think the sentence is appropriate."

**Relations With French Communist Party.** When another reporter asked if the Chinese Communist Party plans to get in touch with the French Communist Party, Deng Xiaoping said: "On our part, we are willing to get in touch with all political forces in France. But the French Communist Party and the Chinese Communist Party can't come together now on many issues."

gression and work for social progress and world peace should unite and resolutely struggle against the hegemonists' acts of aggression and expansion.

## Readjustment and Co-operation With Foreign Countries

In his talks on February 11 with Saburo Okita, representative of the Japanese Government, Vice-Premier Gu Mu spoke about China's current economic readjustment. During the period of economic readjustment, the Vice-Premier said, a number of projects will be cancelled or postponed and

certain contracts signed with foreign firms will be affected. Owing to the shortage of oil reserves, some of the projects consuming vast amounts of oil and other energy, such as the second stage of construction of the Baoshan Iron and Steel Complex and some chemical industrial and synthetic fibre plants involving contracts with Japanese firms, need to be readjusted.

"China will not ignore the economic losses of its trade partners by the cancellation of these projects," the Vice-Premier said. "We will assume appropriate economic responsibility through consultation and in accordance with the conven-

tional international practice." Through readjustment, Vice-Premier Gu Mu continued, China's economy will develop steadily on a new basis. The prospects for expanding economic co-operation and trade between China and Japan will be even broader, and Sino-Japanese friendship will continue to develop.

Saburo Okita said that the purpose of his visit to China was to learn more about China's economic readjustment and the steps to be taken by China to solve the problems arising from the cancellation of certain contracts. He expressed the hope that the problems in Japanese-Chinese trade would not affect



the friendship, and good-neighbourly relations between the two countries.

Deng Xiaoping, Vice-Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party, also spoke about China's economic readjustment during his meeting with Saburo Okita. He said that readjustment was necessary in order to lay a solid foundation for future development. He noted that this would cause certain economic losses to some foreign firms. He expressed the hope that solutions would be found through joint efforts, such as using government loans or starting joint ventures so that the cancelled projects could be continued. This, he said, would benefit both sides. If no better way could be found for the time being, we would assume appropriate economic responsibility. In short, China would not change its policy on economic co-operation with foreign countries and such co-operation would continue to develop in the future.

Saburo Okita arrived in Beijing on February 10 for a three-day visit to China.

### News in Brief

**China Supplies Crude Oil to the Philippines.** China will deliver 900,000 tons of crude oil to the Philippines this year, 100,000 tons less than in 1980. A contract to this effect was signed in Manila last month between the China National Chemicals Import and Export Corporation and the Philippine National Oil Company. The Philippine side expressed its understanding of the difficulties China has in the energy field at present, and hopes that oil shipments will go up when oil production in China increases in the future.

**West Germany Buys Chinese Cargo Ships.** West Germany has ordered three 4,400-ton multi-purpose ocean-going cargo ships from China, according to a contract signed in Beijing on January 21 between the Schulz and Clemmesen Ship Company and the China Corporation of Ship-Building Industry. This is the first time that China sells small and medium-sized cargo ships to a Western country.

The Shanghai Shipyard will build four 12,300-ton container ships for two West German shipping companies under a contract signed earlier between the China National Machinery Import and Export Corporation and the German firms. The ships are scheduled to be delivered by the end of June 1983.

## ECONOMIC

### First High-Flux Atomic Reactor

China's first large high-flux test and research atomic reactor has gone into high-power operation in southwest China.

This reactor has a thermal power of 125,000 kilowatts, a maximum thermal neutron flux of 6.2 times ten neutrons per square centimetre second to the 14th power, and a maximum fast neutron flux of 5.7 times ten neutrons per square centimetre second to the 14th power. At present, only a few industrially advanced countries in the world can make large, high neutron flux reactors of this kind.

The high thermal neutron flux reactor can be used for

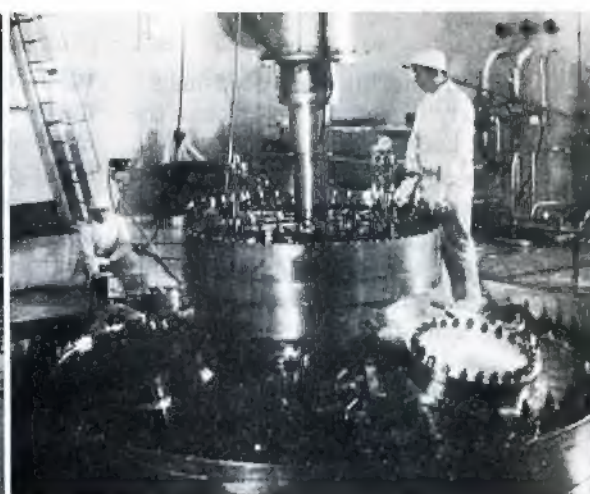
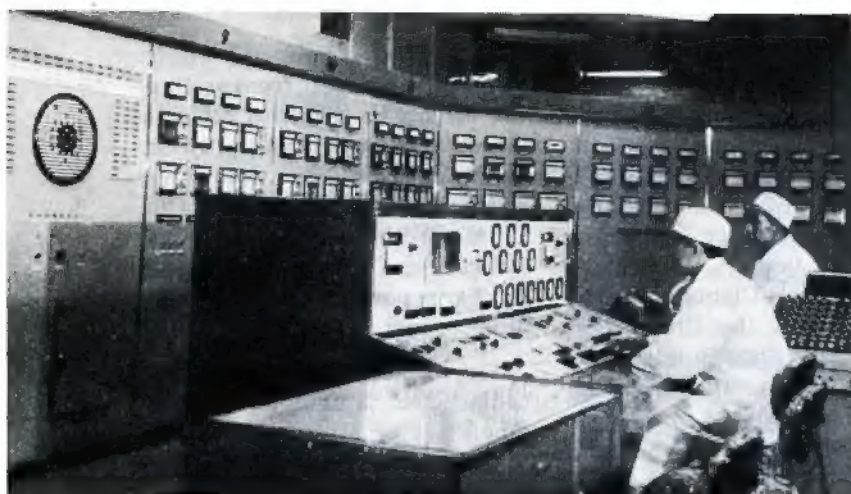
different purposes, from testing the effects of neutrons on materials and engineering projects to production of radioactive isotopes. It is indispensable to China in the research for the independent development of nuclear power stations and atomic energy.

The reactor, self-designed and constructed, is equipped with a whole set of effective facilities to prevent environmental pollution and to protect the operators and local inhabitants. A serious accident may result from stoppage in the supply of coolant water to the reactor core. Without the normal supply of coolant water, the temperature of the reactor core will rise quickly and the fuel elements will be so hot that they will crack. This was the case with the accident that took place in the Three Mile Island nuclear power station at Harrisburg, U.S.A. In the case of China's new reactor, the reserve generators will go into operation immediately, when electricity supply is cut off, and the supply of coolant water will be guaranteed.

The study of atomic reactors was started in China 20 years ago. The new reactor was designed by the Southwest China Reactor Engineering Research and Designing Institute under the Second Ministry of Machine Building. Most of the scientists and engineers who participated in the research, designing and construction of this reactor were trained in China after liberation and they have studied various kinds of reactors.

Operation shows that the design is satisfactory and that all major parameters meet the prescribed standards. "China is





Left: The main control room. Right: Testing the reactor equipment.

now able to design, manufacture and build nuclear power stations independently," an official in charge of the project said.

## Good Economic Situation

Figures released by the State Statistical Bureau show that the present economic situation in China is one of the best since the founding of the People's Republic in 1949. Following are some of the manifestations:

**Increased Production.** Owing to bad weather, grain output dropped by 5 per cent in 1980 as compared with the record year of 1979. But the output of many industrial crops increased by a big margin. Cotton increased by 19.7 per cent, oil-bearing crops by 11.4 per cent and sugar cane and sugar beet by 12 per cent, all hitting an all-time high.

Industrial production rose by 8.4 per cent in 1980 over 1979 despite a 2.9 per cent decrease in energy supply. Output of light industry went up by 17.4 per cent, while that of heavy industry by 1.6 per cent. The proportion of light industry in the total industrial output value

rose from 43.1 per cent in 1979 to 46.7 per cent in 1980.

**Improved Livelihood.** The average per-capita income in the rural areas in 1980 was estimated to be 170 yuan as against 117 yuan in 1977. The average annual increase in the income of each peasant over the past three years was 17.7 yuan.

Jobs were provided for 26.6 million people in the years 1977-80.

Investigations by the State Statistical Bureau show that the average per-capita income of workers in state-owned enterprises rose from 602 yuan in 1977 to 781 yuan in 1980, an average per-capita annual increase of 60 yuan over the last three years. Each worker supported 1.8 persons (including the worker himself) in 1980 as against 3.2 in 1957, and the per-capita income of each worker family rose from 186 yuan to 395 yuan.

The increase of people's incomes in the past three years is quite big even after deducting the rises in prices.

**Lively Economic Activities.** Last year, more than 6,000 enter-

prises of different types were given greater power of self-management. As a result, the total industrial output value of 5,372 enterprises in the first nine months of 1980 registered an increase of 12 per cent over the corresponding period in 1979 and profits handed over to the state increased by 13 per cent. In both cases, the rate of increase was bigger than that of



Peasants putting their money in the savings bank.



enterprises not given such power.

Thanks to market regulations under the guidance of state plans, total retail sales of commodities last year amounted to 207,100 million yuan, an increase of 31,900 million yuan over the previous year (in our issue No. 6, p. 8, in the item "Higher Purchasing Power," the increase was reported to be 20,000 million yuan, which was an estimate made earlier by the State Statistical Bureau). This was an 18.2 per cent increase. If the price rises are taken into account, the increase would be 11 per cent.

### Revamping Old Railway Lines

In 1980 China made 3.6 times more investments to revamp old railway lines than to build new ones. Railway lines that were double-tracked totalled 1,059 kilometres, and 640 kilometres of electrified railways went into operation.

At the end of 1979 railway lines (including local ones) open to traffic totalled 51,525 kilometres, almost half of which were built after the founding of New China in 1949.

## POLITICAL

### Hu Yaobang's Speech at Army Conference

At a recent army conference on political work, General Secretary of the Party Central Committee Hu Yaobang called on all Party and army cadres to take the lead in implementing the Party's line, policies and

principles and work for the supreme interests of the people.

**Basic Policy Unchanged.** Hu Yaobang said, the Party's line, policies and principles laid down since the convocation of the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee towards the end of 1978 are correct and practical and have won the support of the people. He cited a host of facts to prove that the nation's economic situation is getting better and better each year and the political situation is more stable than ever.

This does not mean that the policies are perfect, he added. All correct things are relative. Our basic policies have not changed, but with the development of the situation, some necessary amendments and revisions will be made so as to perfect the specific policies and make them conform to the actual situation.

**Four Basic Principles.** Hu Yaobang stressed that adherence to the four basic principles — adherence to the socialist road, the people's democratic dictatorship or dictatorship of the proletariat, the leadership of the Party and Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought — is of cardinal importance to the future and destiny of our Party and state. Adherence to the leadership of the Party is the core of the four basic principles. Without the Communist Party, there would be no New China, and without Party leadership, there will be no modernized socialist construction.

**Four Points of Attention.** To consolidate and develop the present excellent situation of stability and unity, Hu went on to say, it is imperative to at-

tach importance to the following four points:

— Continue to improve socialist democracy and the legal system;

— Party members and cadres should maintain close ties with the masses, unite and work together with the greatest possible number of comrades;

— Further improve the political life of the whole Party and create a political situation in which there is liveliness and vigour; and

— Take a correct attitude towards the youth, take good care of them and give them guidance.

Hu Yaobang called on the P.L.A. to step up the building of a modernized revolutionary army, carry forward the revolutionary spirit of "fearing neither hardships nor death," and wipe out all invaders who dare to impose war on us.

He told the conference that the success of our cause depends to a great extent on the 20 million cadres, 38 million Party members, millions of P.L.A. men and tens of millions of Communist Youth League members. He urged that everyone, particularly the political work cadres, should foster the spirit of self-sacrifice and work for the supreme interests of the people.

The conference was held in Beijing from January 14 to February 1.

**CORRECTION:** In our issue No. 3, 1981, on p. 20, line 9 in the left column, for 2.3 per cent read 0.23 per cent; on p. 22, 22nd line in the right column, for 27.7 read 27.3



## The People's Army

A fire caused by two children at the end of last year was raging in the city of Fuzhou, capital of east China's Fujian Province with a population of 1.05 million. It threatened to destroy the city's major commercial district. At this crucial juncture, the commander and the political commissar of the Fujian Units

of fearing neither hardships nor death.

It was Wang Jie, a soldier of the P.L.A., who first put forward the slogan of "fearing neither hardships nor death" in 1965. He carried out his own dictum to the letter. During a military exercise with the militia one day, when a bag of explosives was on the point of going off by accident, Wang Jie darted forward and threw himself on it. He thus laid down his life to protect the militiamen standing close by. The spirit of this slogan again found expression in 1969 when the P.L.A. repulsed an armed provocation by the Soviet troops directed at north-east China's Zhenbao Island. Comrade Mao Zedong highly commended this slogan for giving expression to the spirit of hard work and self-sacrifice upheld by the Party.

Numerous examples testify to the fact that this fine tradition has been carried forward by the P.L.A. during the period of socialist construction.

— Early this year, the Wuhan Units of the P.L.A. in central China's Hubei Province put out a big forest fire, thereby preventing 1,540 hectares of forests and 140 hectares of orchard from being destroyed. In the process, 18 soldiers were injured and a 20-year-old died.

— Last summer, 150 herdsmen in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and their 16,200 head of cattle and sheep were stranded on a stretch of pastureland because of a flood. On hearing this, P.L.A. soldiers stationed some 45 kilometres away rushed to their rescue. They helped the herdsmen move to a safe place together with their sheep and cattle.

— Last winter two children in Daxi County in south China's

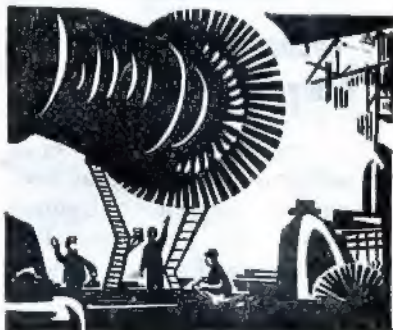
## Relief Work Done by P.L.A. in 1980

Many parts of China were hit by flood, drought or windstorms last year. To safeguard the people's security and protect state property, the P.L.A. played an active role. Following are some figures showing the part played by the P.L.A. in carrying out relief work last year.

- Commanders and fighters involved: 543,800
- Planes and naval boats dispatched: 1,882
- Vehicles sent: 21,000
- People rescued: 31,300
- Goods transported: 620,000 tons

Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region fell into a river. A P.L.A. squad leader and three soldiers who happened to be close by jumped into the water at once and saved them, but the squad leader sacrificed his life.

To build socialism in an economically backward and populous country like ours is an arduous task, in the course of which many difficulties may be encountered. Moreover, enemies both at home and abroad try by every means to undermine our cause. All this underscores the need to carry forward the revolutionary spirit of fearing neither hardships nor death.



P.L.A. men helping the fire brigade put out a fire in the city of Fuzhou.

of the People's Liberation Army rushed to the rescue with their men. Together with the fire brigade they put out the fire in a little more than two hours and saved a considerable amount of public property.

The P.L.A. is renowned for its dedication to the cause of the people. During the long years of revolutionary wars, it displayed revolutionary heroism, defied all difficulties and made great contributions to the victory of the revolution. This later came to be known as the spirit



## Victory for the Non-Aligned

**T**HE Foreign Ministers' Conference of the Non-Aligned Countries held world attention from February 9-13 in New Delhi, India. Representatives from almost a hundred countries and organizations at the conference debated heatedly over current major international issues and urgent tasks the non-aligned movement faced. After the sharp debates and wide-ranging consultations, the conference finally adopted the declaration appealing to all members of the non-aligned movement to "uphold the principles and aim of the non-aligned movement" and oppose foreign intervention into other's internal affairs and the policies of expansionism, control and hegemonism, and demanding the withdrawal of all foreign troops and forces from Afghanistan and Kampuchea. This is a victory of no small significance in safeguarding the principles and objectives of the non-aligned movement. Furthermore, it has dealt a heavy blow to the Soviet Union, which wants to undermine the non-aligned movement.

**Soviet Sabotage Frustrated.** The Soviet Union was frustrated in its attempt to distort and misrepresent the fundamental principles and objectives of the non-aligned movement with a view to turning the movement into its instrument for achieving hegemony. In his message of greetings to the conference, on the eve of the opening session, Soviet leader Brezhnev claimed that the Soviet Union had adopted stands identical with or similar to those of the non-aligned countries on the

fundamental problems of the present world. This was seen as a blatant attempt to woo over the non-aligned movement to the Soviet side. However, the conference has, in fact, rejected the principle of "opposing only one imperialism" the Soviet Union defined for the movement and adhered to its non-bloc principle. For example, a TASS commentary on February 6 drew particular attention to the escalation of the military presence of the United States and its allies in the Indian Ocean. Yet, the conference, after discussions, called on all big powers to dismantle their military bases in that region, instead of expressing opposition to the U.S. military base on Diego Garcia alone. It is also noteworthy that the Soviet Union's "natural ally" theory, which was hawked by some at the non-aligned summit conference in Havana, was only faintly echoed, by Viet Nam alone, but sternly refuted by many participating countries at New Delhi this time.

**Afghanistan and Kampuchea.** The Soviet Union also failed in its attempt to obstruct at the conference discussion of the Afghan and the Kampuchean problems and, through Viet Nam and Cuba, prevent the writing into the final declaration of the conference the call for foreign troop withdrawal from Afghanistan and Kampuchea. This is the first time in the history of the non-aligned movement that so many member states have condemned the Soviet Union for its aggressive acts by name or by implication at a major non-aligned confer-

ence. Such is the extent the Soviet Union has become discredited among the non-aligned countries. Through a heated debate and the persistent efforts of most participating nations, important revisions were made to the draft declaration put forward by the host country. Respect for the tradition of reaching unanimity through consultation among member countries caused the declaration to be lower in tone than the related resolutions of the United Nations and the Islamic conference on the two questions. Nevertheless, this was the first time the non-aligned movement has clearly expressed its demand for the withdrawal of foreign troops and forces from Afghanistan and Kampuchea. This is quite a rebuff to the Soviet and Vietnamese acts of aggression.

**No to "Political Settlement."** The Soviet Union failed in its scheme to use the conference to push its so-called "political settlement" of the Afghan issue. Before the conference, it had tried to mislead the world, hinting broadly that in the course of the meeting, the Babrak Karmal authorities under its aegis would hold official bilateral talks with neighbouring countries. It had entertained the vain hope of legalizing the Afghan puppet regime without the withdrawal of the Soviet occupation troops from Afghanistan, and of escaping public condemnation at the conference by pretending to support a peaceful settlement. However, the Iranian representative refused to talk with the representative from the Karmal regime, pointing out that the only representatives of the Afghan people were the fighters resisting the Soviet occupa-



tion troops. The Pakistan representative also refused to hold bilateral talks with the Karmal regime. As if that were not enough, the declaration of the conference stressed that the political solution of the Afghan problem should be based on foreign troop withdrawal.

The above facts reflect the viability and strength of the 20-year-old non-aligned movement. Soviet interference, particularly through the disruptive efforts of its surrogates

inside the movement, Cuba and Viet Nam, will bring more trouble to the non-aligned movement. However, the majority of the member countries will go on opposing aggression and the violation of international norms and will not join either of the superpower blocs. This is the mainstream of the non-aligned movement and was reaffirmed at the recent conference.

—Guo Ping

## Gulf States

### A Step Towards Unity

SIX Persian Gulf countries have decided to establish a council of co-operation in order to pool their resources and strength and better safeguard the stability of their region. This was announced by the Foreign Ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman and Bahrein at a conference held in the Saudi Arabian capital of Riyadh on February 4. The proposed council of co-operation will have a secretariat and hold periodic summit conferences and meetings of foreign ministers.

The ministers at the Riyadh conference discussed plans for greater military unity and co-ordination in military training and the use of weapons. More co-operation in oil production, industry, science and culture was also discussed. In addition, Oman proposed the establishment of a joint naval force by the Gulf states

to protect and defend the Strait of Hormuz.

The Riyadh conference and its decisions reflect the current turbulence in the Gulf region and the steps the littoral countries are prepared to take to cope with this situation.

### Clouds Over the Gulf

Since the invasion of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union, the Gulf region has become increasingly tense and unstable. The war between Iran and Iraq has caused greater unrest in this already turbulent region and brought it to the centre of world concern. Although navigation through the Strait of Hormuz has continued as nor-

mal, there is still apprehension that the flames of war between the two Gulf countries may spread throughout the region and perhaps even ignite another world war.

**Superpower Contention.** These apprehensions are not without reason; the Persian Gulf region is the world's most important oil-producing area and the biggest oil supply base for the West. It has proven oil deposits of more than 360 billion barrels, accounting for 55.5 per cent of the world's known total oil deposits. In 1980, its average daily oil output was 30 per cent of the world's total daily oil production; the 17 million barrels it exported every day accounted for half of the world's oil trade and 35 per cent of international consumption. Therefore, the Soviet Union and the United States naturally consider the Gulf area a strategically important area in their contention for world hegemony. Control of the throat of the Gulf—the Strait of Hormuz, through which nearly one billion barrels of oil are shipped to the U.S., Western Europe and Japan each year—is considered equal to control of the very lifeline of these countries.

**Moscow's Three-Sided Offensive.** The Soviet strategy in this region is apparently aimed at controlling the oil production sites and the channels of oil transport, thereby strangling the West without firing a shot. For this purpose, it has taken a series of aggressive actions designed to besiege the Gulf and its surrounding area. First, the Soviet Black Sea Fleet has joined the fleet in the Mediterranean Sea to bring pressure upon Persian Gulf oilfields from the northwest. Second, from its bases on the Red Sea at Aden in South Yemen and Massawa in Ethiopia, Moscow threatens





the region from the southwest flank. The Soviets are now reportedly building additional naval facilities on the Dahlak Archipelago in the Red Sea, on Perim Island in the narrow Strait of Bab al Mandab and on Socotra Island at the opening of the Gulf of Aden into the Indian Ocean. The third side of Moscow's efforts at encirclement is Afghanistan. In a time of need, it could easily thrust southward from its bases there to capture ice-free ports in the Indian Ocean and threaten the Persian Gulf from the east and northeast. The distance the Soviets must travel to reach the rich Gulf oilfields has thus been shortened to only 300 miles, while more than 50 naval vessels have been sent to cruise the waters in this area. Signs of Soviet naval activity can even be seen in the Gulf of Oman.

The Soviet Union has also claimed for itself the right of access to Gulf oil resources and the right to take part in "an international guarantee" for the Gulf oil passage. It recently put forward a five-point proposal which will supposedly ensure peace and security in the Gulf region.

**The Americans Won't Hesitate to Fight.** The United States considers this region to be of major economic and strategic importance, and has refused to yield to Soviet pressure. Former U.S. President Carter clearly indicated that the U.S. will oppose foreign intervention in the Persian Gulf with whatever means are necessary, including military force. Ronald Reagan can be expected to take an even tougher stance towards the Soviet Union. In recent months, the U.S. has stepped up its mil-

itary presence in the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean, and has developed a rapid deployment force for potential conflict in the area. In addition, the U.S. has called for the creation of a special fleet of ships by the main oil importing countries of the West to keep the oil lanes through the Gulf open.

### Unite to Resist Intervention

Confronted with such intense superpower rivalry over their region, what can the littoral countries do to protect themselves? What is the best way to uphold the peace and security of the region and of their countries? These are certainly problems which must be considered and acted upon soon.

Furthermore, although these countries have made some progress in social reform and economic development in recent years, social injustice remains and various new problems have appeared. There are also border disputes between some

of these countries. All of these problems provide foreign forces with an opportunity to meddle in the Gulf region, and the Soviets have shown that they are adept in taking advantage of such situations to foment discord and carry out infiltration and subversion.

The decision of the Riyadh conference to set up a co-operation council to strengthen regional unity and co-ordinate their policies is thus significant; clearly, this is a positive step towards enhancing the ability of these countries to resist foreign intervention and deal with their domestic problems. Through unity and co-operation, they will be able to handle their own affairs and decide their future without outside interference, which is undoubtedly the aspiration of the people of these countries, and will help uphold peace in the area.

—*"Beijing Review"* news analyst Yi Ming

### ASEAN-South Pacific

## More Co-operation

**P**OLITICALLY, economically, and militarily, members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and countries in the South Pacific have drawn closer in the past few years. This development was spurred on in part by the growing awareness of stepped-up Soviet expansion and penetration into this part of the world.

**Politically.** These countries have seen the Vietnamese invading Kampuchea and attacking Thailand on several occasions with Moscow's backing. The South Pacific countries, along with

their ASEAN neighbours, are justifiably concerned about this hegemonist threat to the security of this region.

During his visit to the ASEAN countries last November, Australian Foreign Minister Anthony Street pointed out that Australia, together with ASEAN members, was a sponsor country of the U.N. resolution on the Kampuchea question and supports the demand for the total withdrawal of foreign troops from Kampuchea and the Kampuchean people's right of self-determination. At the U.N.



General Assembly Australia and New Zealand reaffirmed their support for ASEAN's stand to continue to recognize Democratic Kampuchea's legitimate seat at the United Nations. The ASEAN stand also has the support of Western Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Fiji and other South Pacific countries.

The armed sallies into Thailand by Vietnamese forces last year further incensed South Pacific countries. The Australian Government announced that it would help build up Thai defence capabilities by various means to enable Thailand to withstand grave challenges to its stability. The New Zealand Foreign Minister said his government supports the joint communique of the 13th ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting condemning the Vietnamese armed aggression against Thailand, and the ASEAN countries have the assured political and moral support of his government.

**Militarily.** Military co-operation between ASEAN members and South Pacific countries is developing, too. Last year, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia and Singapore held several joint military exercises and Australia is providing ASEAN countries with military hardware and training.

Last September, at the Regional Commonwealth Conference of 16 Asian and Pacific nations held in New Delhi, the Australian, Malaysian and Singaporean Prime Ministers discussed restoring and strengthening joint defence arrangements.

A month later, in October, Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand and Singapore conducted a month-long joint air exercise from air bases in Singapore and Malaysia. Australia and Indonesia also discussed military co-operation and signed

agreements on holding joint naval exercises. The two countries decided to enlarge the scale of their joint military exercises and improve military co-operation. After the Vietnamese invasion of Kampuchea, Australia and New Zealand, both members of the Manila Pact, repeatedly stated that the Manila Pact is still valid and that if Thailand is attacked by Viet Nam they are obligated to help Thailand in resisting the aggression.

**Economically.** In the last ten years, trade between the ASEAN countries and Australia increased fivefold. New Zealand

land exports to ASEAN countries make up about 20 to 25 per cent of its total exports. With the signing of the agreement last year between Australia and ASEAN countries to promote regional economic co-operation, Australia is now going to help ASEAN countries develop their foreign trade and to allow more ASEAN products into the Australian market. Australia will also invest more and provide more economic aid to ASEAN members. According to the same agreement, Australia will waive the 12.5 per cent sur-tax for some of imports from the ASEAN countries.

## Japan

### Northern Territories Day

**T**HE four islands of Habomai, Shikotan, Kunashiri and Etorofu in the northern part of Japan, which have always been inherent Japanese territories, were explicitly recognized as such 126 years ago by Russia in

ed February 7 as "Northern Territories Day" and on that day, the Japanese Government and public organizations for the first time jointly sponsored public rallies in Tokyo, Sapporo and Nemuro calling for the recovery of the Soviet-occupied northern territories. This marks a step forward in the drive to have the northern territories restored to Japan.

The northern territories issue is the result of the forcible Soviet occupation of these islands at the end of World War II and the Soviet refusal to withdraw. Moscow avers that "no territorial issue exists" in relations between the Soviet Union and Japan and claims that Japan's demand for the return of the islands is "interfering in the Soviet Union's internal affairs" and "aggravating Soviet-Japanese relations." On many occasions the Japanese Government has expressed willingness to negotiate with the Soviet Union to solve this problem and on this basis, develop Japanese-Soviet relations. To



the Treaty of Commerce, Navigation and Boundary Delimitation it signed with Japan on February 7, 1855. On January 6 this year, the Japanese Government designat-



repeated Japanese proposals, however, the Soviet Union side-stepped and countered with a proposal to sign a "good-neighbourly treaty of co-operation," which, if signed, would legalize the Soviet occupation.

When the Japanese Government announced that it was making February 7 "Northern Territories Day," the Soviet Union charged that Japan was deliberately unfolding a nationwide anti-Soviet campaign and declared menacingly that it would "draw appropriate conclusions." On February 7, TASS, the official Soviet news agency described the Tokyo rally as "a provocation" and Japanese Prime Minister Suzuki's statement at the rally as "another signal for fanning up a violent anti-Soviet movement in Japan and a propaganda campaign for increasing tension in the Far East." If the Soviet charges have accomplished anything, they have eloquently expressed Soviet ambitions to perpetuate the occupation of the northern Japanese territories.

And there are facts in further proof of this. All local Japanese residents on the four islands have been forcibly evicted; most of them are now living in the Nemuro area and are not even permitted to visit ancestral graves. Moreover, the Soviet Union has declared a 200-nautical-mile exclusive fishing zone off the coasts of the four islands. This has led to the detention and fining of some 1,600 Japanese fishing boats and 13,200 fishermen. Some fishermen are still in Soviet custody.

A graver development has been the accelerated military buildup on the four islands by the Soviet Union despite repeated protests from the Japanese

Government. Reports place Soviet troops at division strength, equipped with tanks and long-range artillery. This has been accompanied by repeated violations of Japanese territorial waters and airspace and an increasingly greater Soviet military presence in the Far East. From this it is not hard to see that the four northern islands have been turned into a Soviet outpost to threaten Japan and the peace and security of the Asian-Pacific region.

It is these Soviet hegemonist moves that have made the Japanese people see more and

more clearly the threat from the north and prompted them to demand more firmly and clearly the return of their northern territories. An indication of this is the Japanese Diet and all local assemblies passing resolutions last year demanding the return of the four islands. The Japanese people's will to safeguard their national interests and realize their national aspirations is winning sympathy and support from an increasingly wider section of the international community.

—*"Beijing Review" news analyst An Ding*

## Rush for Tangible Assets

A NEW craze has appeared in the West. There is a rush to secure "tangible assets"—gold, diamonds, works of art, antiques, rare stamps and coins and other such tangible things.

In the wake of economic recessions and gloomy forecasts for many industrial sectors, investments in production have become unprofitable and some economic advisers are advising investors to put at least 10 per cent of their capital into "tangible assets" to offset inflation. This, they say, would not only protect their capital from devaluating, but even earn a profit. According to one investment bank report last year, the rate of increase of prices for practically all major "tangible assets" was ahead of inflation. Of all "tangible assets," gold and diamond remained internationally the "super currency."

The best thing about gold is that one can know its latest value from the posted price and also quickly conclude a transaction in gold anywhere in the

world. With the rising demand for gold on top of an energy crisis in the last two or three years, oil price hikes and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the international situation has been in a state of continued tension and turmoil. These are the factors behind the soaring price for gold.

Prices for diamonds have shown less fluctuation, but it is much more complicated to price diamonds. The value of each diamond varies considerably, and even the same diamond has a different value with different jewellers.

Because of the great diversity of ancient coins and rare stamps, their values differ tremendously, making them less attractive than gold.

The recent rush in the West for "tangible assets" is symptomatic of the anxiety and loss of confidence in the capitalist economy.

—*Qin Lian*



*Theoretical Discussion*

# What Is the Aim of Socialist Production?

Since September 1979 Chinese economists have been carrying on a discussion on the basic economic law under socialism, the third of its kind following great nationwide debates on this subject first between 1953 and 1956 and later in the early 60s.

The current discussion, however, differs from the previous two in that the principle of practice being the only criterion in attesting a truth has been applied by popular consent in evaluating and summing up our work in economic construction. The ongoing discussion centres on as before the aim of production and how to realize it, which is the core of the basic economic law under socialism.

The following are excerpts from some statements on this subject made at a national discussion held last December in Beijing, in which different viewpoints are represented. — Ed.

## A Thought-Provoking Question

Wu Zhengkun, Associate Research Member of the Party School Under the Party Central Committee

OUR total output value of industry and agriculture in 1978 was 13.8 times as great as in 1949. The increase of industrial output value was 39.2-fold; that of heavy industry increased more than 90-fold. This rate of growth, compared with other countries, is fairly rapid. But the annual average consumption by peasants and industrial and office workers in that year was only 175 yuan as against 76 yuan in 1952, a mere 2.3-fold increase in 27 years. As compared with 1957, the real wages of workers and staff members in units owned by the whole people in 1978 were 4.46 per cent less, dropping from 583 yuan to 557 yuan. In the case of peasants, average per capita income from the collective went up from

40.5 yuan to 73.9 yuan, an 81.5 per cent increase. (The increase of the national income in the last two years was not mentioned in the discussion.)

This poses a very sharp question, which provides plenty of food for thought. What after all is socialist production aimed at? Why is that the people's living standard has seen no significant improvement in the last 30 years when production has made fairly rapid progress? The main reason, apart from political upheavals, especially sabotage by Lin Biao and the gang of four, is, as we all agree, our failure to do things according to objective economic laws; this has led to blunders in economic work.

Viewing things as a whole, which of these economic laws we have violated is the principal one? What is the main lesson to be learnt? To this, there are various answers. Some believe it was the law of planned, proportionate development of the national economy; others consider it to be the law of value; still others say it was the law of distribution according to work done. It is only since September 1979 that more and more people have come to see how our failure to act according to the basic economic law of socialism gave rise to the tendency of "production for production's sake," which Stalin had criticized Yaroshenko for many years ago.

In my opinion, this deviation from the aim of socialist production found expression after 1958 in the arrangements of the national economic planning, such as ignoring the people's consumption needs and simply encouraging the growth of a few heavy industrial products like iron and steel, working out plans not in the order of agriculture, light industry and heavy industry but the other way round, and giving primacy to accumulation over consump-



tion for a long period. As a result, undertakings directly related to the people's livelihood like housing, culture and education, medicine, public health and public utilities were never given priority. Things were carried to such an extent that the slogan "production first, living conditions next" came to be regarded as a long-term guiding principle for our economic work. This was an out-and-out violation of the Marxist principle of interdependence between production and consumption, thereby creating all kinds of problems in everyday life everywhere.

For many years there has been a kind of "Leftist" thinking in our economic work. Its outstanding manifestations are: doing things without regard to our capability or to the financial and material means of the state and ignoring the need of the people for a stable livelihood, being over-anxious to make achievements, and blindly seeking high speed and capital construction on a mammoth scale. It was under the guidance of this erroneous thinking that hasty advances occurred on three occasions — that is, between 1958 and 1960, in 1965 and in 1978. This is the root of all economic problems that have cropped up thus far.

## Final Products

**Yu Guangyuan, Vice-President of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences**

**I**N the light of our experience in economic construction after the founding of the People's Republic and according to the socialist nature of our economic system, our economic goal or the aim of social production cannot be anything but "increasing the production of the final products needed by the people within the possible means and to the maximum extent."

Final products include: (1) personal consumer goods, which are the most important of all; (2) material things necessary for developing social education, science, culture and public health; (3) whatever is necessary for governing society and conducting class struggle (mainly things to strengthen national defence); and (4) products for export.

The term final products referred to here differs in connotation from the term ultimate needs used by bourgeois economists. The latter,

apart from consumption needs and export needs, also include investment needs and government procurements, which reflect economic life in capitalist society. Under capitalism, anything turned out and sold by capitalists is considered a final product.

Under socialist system, only those things that are to enter various fields of consumption are considered final products, which do not include the means of production (with the exception of those for export). The final products we speak of here accord with the statement made by Stalin on the aim of socialist production, namely, "the securing of the maximum satisfaction of the constantly rising material and cultural requirements of the whole of society."

In planning and arranging social production as a whole, we must proceed from the idea of increasing the production of final products and measure the achievement of our entire economic work by the growth of final products.

## Net Products

**Song Tao, Head of the Department of Economics, China People's University**

**A**S Stalin had said, the aim of socialist production is to satisfy the constantly rising material and cultural needs of the whole society. I think this has been proved correct in practice. It is a logical tendency under socialism that the material and cultural life of our labourers and society will steadily improve and that going against this will make it impossible for a socialist society to show its inherent superiority.

How then are we to achieve this aim? The only way to achieve this is, in my opinion, through the large-scale production of net products. Net products are surplus products after the material and cultural needs of labourers have been properly met on the basis of a given level of the development of production; in terms of value, these products are manifested as profit.

With the exception of early primitive society, there are net products or surplus products in every type of society. Such products are invariably in the possession of the owners of the means of production, in the hands of slave-owners, serf-owners and capitalists, prior to a socialist society. In a socialist society where





Left. Beijing is producing more consumer goods as never before, including durable goods like these washing machines.  
Right. In 1980, Shanghai's new housing projects covered a floor space of 2.98 million square metres, 38 per cent more than in 1979.

the means of production are publicly owned, the net products are in the possession of the whole body of labourers. The mode of production and distribution of net products is, therefore, a major mark characteristic of the nature of different societies.

Net products include both capital goods and consumer goods. Under socialism, their production provides not only the source for accumulation but also the source for satisfying the growing needs in material and cultural life

## Many-Sided Needs

Tang Siwen, Beijing Institute of Finance and Trade

**W**HEN Stalin spoke of "the constantly rising material and cultural requirements of the whole society," did he mean only the needs in material and cultural life? Or also material and cultural requirements not connected with daily life, such as needs of production and enlarged reproduction, needs of national defence, needs of foreign aid, and of the state administration, as well as needs of science and culture other than those connected with everyday life? In my opinion, he was referring to the latter.

Marx said in *Capital*: "A commodity is, in the first place, an object outside us, a thing that by its properties satisfies human wants of some sort or another, the nature of such wants, whether, for instance, they spring from the

stomach or from fancy, makes no difference. Neither are we here concerned to know how the object satisfies these wants, whether directly as means of subsistence, or indirectly as means of production."

In socialist society, man's purposeful productive activities are for the use-value, to be used to satisfy, directly or indirectly, his wants. He cannot continue his existence if he merely produces things that directly satisfy his wants, without producing those that indirectly satisfy his wants, such as tools to be used in production and in self-defence.

Some people say: If all kinds of social needs are said to be part of the requirements, then the aim of socialist production, which is a question of first importance, is not a very clear-cut one. In the past, production in our country made fairly rapid progress while improvement of the people's livelihood was slow. wasn't this precisely because the aim of production was not clearly defined?

I don't think this was the main cause of failure to improve the people's livelihood. The main cause was violation of the law of proportionate development of the national economy. Objectively there is a certain proportion between the various needs in their relation to each other and ignoring such a proportion in working out the national economic plan will result in a disequilibrium in economic development.



# Needs of Everyday Life, Nothing Else

Wei Xinghua, Associate Professor  
of China People's University

I DO not stand for the multi-aim argument. I think the "material and cultural requirements" Stalin spoke of do not mean sweepingly the needs of a state and society in various fields, but the immediate material and cultural needs in the everyday life of every member of society, both individuals and collectives.

Why do I say this multi-aim argument is not correct?

To begin with, it does not conform with the viewpoint of classic Marxist writers. Engels said: In socialist society, "the possibility of securing for every member of society, through social production, an existence which is not only perfectly adequate materially and which becomes daily richer, but also guarantees him the completely free development and exercise of his physical and mental faculties—this possibility is now present for the first time, but it is present." (*Anti-Duhring*.) Lenin, too, believed that socialist planned production was for the sake of consumption, for "easing the lives of the working people and of improving their welfare as much as possible." In his remarks on an article commenting on Plekhanov's first draft programme, he clearly pointed out that the expression "needs of the entire society" was unclear.

Next, the aim of production reflects the essential nature of social production and is, therefore, unitary, not pluralistic. The aim of capitalist production is, for instance, to create surplus value. That part used to maintain workers' needs in life, the variable capital, is a means to obtain surplus value, and is therefore not included in the aim of capitalist production.

Thirdly, the pluralists' view has lumped the needs of the state in carrying out its functions, the task of production provided in state plan and the actual distribution of national income together with the aim of socialist production.

The aim of socialist production is, in essence, the aim of communist production. If we look at the process of socialist economic movement, we'll find that the securing of the satisfaction of the constantly rising material and

cultural requirements of the people alone remains the objective trend in constant progress; as to needs in other fields, they will either disappear or diminish considerably in the process of the movement.

## Dual Purposes

Wang Haibo, Editorial Office of the  
People's Publishing House, and Wu  
Jinlian, Institute of Economics, Chi-  
nese Academy of Social Sciences

ON the issue of the aim of socialist production, Marx, Engels and Lenin did in fact say things similar to what Stalin said. But we must examine them in connection with a premiss to which their thinking owes its existence, that is, the socialist society they had envisaged in their times would be able to directly organize the integration of labour power with the means of production and it did not need to go through enterprises as the basic productive units in society.

On the question by whom should socialist production be organized, Lenin's answer was clear enough: After the establishment of socialist public ownership, he said, "it would be more definite to say 'by society as a whole' (for this covers planning and indicates who is responsible for that planning), and not merely to satisfy the needs of its members, but with object of ensuring full well-being and free, all-round development for all the members of society." (*Materials for the Preparation of the Programme of the R.S.D.L.P.*) In *The State and Revolution* he had put it more explicitly: "The whole of society will have become a single office and a single factory, with equality of labour and equality of pay."

As shown by experience gained thus far, it is still not possible to achieve this at the present stage of socialism. It would be difficult to achieve this even in the most developed capitalist country of our time after the victory of the proletarian revolution. In other words, enterprises have not lost their functions as the basic units of social production. Moreover, in the historical period of socialism, labour cannot possibly become man's first need in life and the principle of to each according to his work must continue to apply. An enterprise, as a labourers' collective, expects to receive an income commensurate with its fruit of labour and operation.

Therefore, a socialist state-owned enter-



prise has the following peculiar feature at the present stage: It is not of a pure ownership by the whole people but embraces in part an ownership by the enterprise, or, to put it in another way, it still consists of certain elements of ownership by a collective enterprise; a state-owned enterprise is not a mere basic productive unit but a commodity producer with relatively independent economic interest of its own. Accordingly, the aim of production in a state-owned enterprise is not just to meet the needs of all labourers in everyday life (though this is primary), but, locally, to meet the needs in the life of the labourers in the enterprise itself.

We hold that the two aforesaid aspects of the aim of production are inherent in the economic essence of the state-owned socialist economy and represent an objective necessity for its development at the present stage. In the last two years, over 6,000 enterprises have proved this point through their enthusiasm for production, their vitality and the economic results they have obtained since their participation in the experiment of expanding their right of autonomy.

## A Single Aim

Wu Shuqing, Associate Professor of  
China People's University

**I**T is true that in real economic life, the various state-owned enterprises, in deciding on their productive activities and operations, are bound to take into consideration both the interest of the society as a whole and their own interests, but this does not follow theoretically

that both are the aims of socialist production.

In determining the content of the aim of socialist production, what we must take into consideration can only be the aim of production that will show the economic essence peculiar to socialism. And this peculiar essence is the public ownership of the means of production. It integrates those economic units separated from one another by the private ownership of the means of production into a unified, organic whole and sees to it that the wealth thus created is to become the common wealth of all labourers. This being the case, the only aim of socialist production is to meet the material and cultural needs of the entire society.

As to the question of an enterprise meeting its own needs and interests, I deem it a demand set by the law of value, which is the common law in all societies where exchange of commodities takes place. Each enterprise takes into consideration its own interest when organizing production—this shows that under socialism in its present stage, the law of value is still in operation and controls man's actions. This state of affairs does not imply that there is a second aim for socialist production, but, on the contrary, represents a kind of limit on the realization of the aim of socialist production.

Besides, the interests of the labouring people as a whole and those of the labourers in an enterprise as a collective will still clash sometimes. If both are said to be aims of socialist production, how can we explain the fact that one aim may exclude the other? When the two aims clash, which of the two is production to serve? □

# China Expands Foreign Trade And Economic Relations

**China will continue to follow an "open-door" policy and expand economic, trade and technical co-operation with other countries on the principle of equality and mutual benefit.**

**A** SPOKESMAN of the Administrative Commission on Import and Export Affairs earlier this month spoke about China's trade and economic relations with other countries during the period of economic readjustment. He

pointed out that there was a healthy development in trade relations and economic co-operation with other countries in 1980.

Foreign trade and economic relations will grow in general during the on-going economic readjustment. Trading in the world market and economic and technical co-operation with other countries will improve China's production capacity, enliven the home market, strengthen weak links in the national economy

and thus improve the country's degree of self-reliance.

### **Technical Co-operation**

Economic and technical co-operation last year focused on the development of energy resources such as coal, petroleum and power, the modernization of rail transport and port construction and the revamping of existing enterprises.

Contracts were signed between China and French and Japanese oil corporations for joint exploration of off-shore oil in the Bohai Sea and the Beibu Wan Gulf. Drilling has already started.

Technical imports were concentrated on introducing key technology and equipment. Imports of technology in the future will be coordinated with revamping of old enterprises. This will be a long-term policy.

### **Foreign Loans and Joint Ventures**

In economic co-operation, China last year accepted both governmental and non-governmental foreign loans, based on the ability to repay. Included were a low-interest loan from the Government of Japan and a long-term interest-free loan from the Government of Belgium.

Both the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank last year restored China's representation and later sent delegations to China to discuss the prospects of economic and technical co-operation. More delegations are coming this year for further technical studies with the view of bringing about early results.

Joint ventures, which have attracted great interest in international trade and financial circles, continued to build up momentum in the latter half of 1980. More than 300 joint venture agreements with foreign firms were ratified by Chinese central and local governments. These include joint enterprises and items of co-operative production, mainly in light industry, textiles, electronics and machine building, as well as hotels. Twenty joint ventures will be set up abroad.

Last year the state passed the income tax law concerning joint ventures and detailed

regulations for its implementation. (For the income tax law, see *Beijing Review*, No. 40, 1980. The relevant regulations will appear in *Beijing Review* soon.) Further regulations and measures will be formulated to define more clearly the laws of taxations, loans and foreign exchange control.

### **Restructuring Foreign Trade**

The current restructuring of China's foreign trade is intended to spur the expansion of China's foreign trade and economic relations under a unified policy by changing over-centralized management and outdated regulations.

Readjustment last year focused mainly on giving local departments and enterprises the right to retain a part of their foreign exchange, opening more channels to foreign trade, including the establishment of 17 new import and export corporations and the founding of foreign trade corporations in Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai, and Guangdong and Fujian Provinces. Special flexible measures have been adopted in coastal Guangdong and Fujian Provinces where special economic zones are being set up.

Foreign trade last year showed a fairly big increase and the trade deficit was less than planned. Total value of imports and exports in 1980 reached 54,600 million yuan, an increase of 20.7 per cent over 1979. Imports rose by 15.2 per cent and exports 27 per cent. Last year the proportion of industrial products in total volume of exports continued to increase with a corresponding drop in farm and sideline products. More goods from remote areas and areas further inland were exported, too.

To facilitate transportation of imports and exports from inland areas, Wuhan, Chongqing and six other ports along the Changjiang River were opened to handle foreign trade.

China had trade relations with more than 170 countries and regions last year and import and export commodities exceeded 50,000 in variety.

This year, efforts will be made to raise the quality of export commodities, add new varieties and improve packaging to meet world market standards. At the same-time, improvements will be made in such weak links as transportation, port facilities and storage. □



# Reforming Criminals

by Our Correspondent Wei Min

*Since publication of a special feature on our criminal law and law of criminal procedure in issue No. 23 (June 9, 1980), many readers have been writing to ask about the principles and methods adopted by China in reforming criminals. With their questions in mind, our Correspondent Wei Min interviewed deputy director Jiao Kun of Beijing Municipal Bureau of Public Security and visited a city prison and reformatory for juvenile delinquents. His report follows. — Ed.*

## Interviewing Deputy Director of Public Security Bureau

**Question:** What is the situation in regard to social order in Beijing?

**Answer:** Social order in our capital had been excellent prior to the "cultural revolution," with the crime rate going down year by year. For instance, crimes in 1965 were at the lowest ebb, fewer than any other year after the founding of the People's Republic in 1949. Beijing then was known to many friends abroad as "the safest city in the world." But in the ten years of turmoil during the "cultural revolution" (1966-76), things developed in the opposite direction, with criminal cases mounting to an all-time high.

There has been a change for the better in the last four years since we started tackling the problem. Criminal cases have been on the decrease, in 1980, for instance, about one-third less than in 1977. Our ability to crack criminal cases is improving every year.

Last May the Secretariat of the Party Central Committee put forward a four-point proposal before the people of the

capital, the first one being that "the public security, social order and moral standards of Beijing should be a model for the whole country and should



Jiao Kun, deputy director of Beijing Municipal Bureau of Public Security.

be among the best in the world." In the light of this proposal our bureau has drawn up a three-year plan which envisages a situation of public security in 1983 as good as the best one prior to the ten years of turmoil.

**Q:** What are the steps to be taken?

**A:** We have planned to start right now focusing on the following three aspects:

One, do our best to prevent crime while striking hard at criminal activities. Two, intensify the reform of criminals. Three, mobilize people throughout society to help educate teenagers in a more effective way so as to reduce the possibilities of criminal offences.

**Q:** Juvenile delinquency is said to be on the increase — what is your opinion?

**A:** That's quite true. At this moment it is one of the most outstanding of all our public security problems. Take the criminals we caught in the four years between 1977 and 1980 for instance, a good 80 per cent of them were young people under 25; before the "cultural revolution," however, juvenile delinquents made up only less than 20 per cent of criminal offenders.

What has made them take up crime? This is a question we have been probing into in our research work. The causes are complex. I can mention some of them, if you're interested.

**Q:** Yes, please.

**A:** Back in the "cultural revolution," which began in 1966, these people were all teenagers or even younger. Some plunged into that political movement heart and soul. But then, Lin Biao and the gang of four, to bring chaos to the whole country, egged on these youngsters to "rebel and make revolution" by smashing up things, beating up people and grabbing whatever they could lay their hands on. Many of them went wrong without even knowing it.

These young people know very little about law. During the "cultural revolution" all schools closed down for a while and when classes were resumed chaos continued to dominate the scene. Our students then could not acquire any book knowledge, did not have a chance to get any instruction in law and because they had so poor an education that they could not tell what is right and what is wrong, they had no inkling of what is meant by a criminal offence. Order in our schools is now much better than before, but quite a number of students are still influenced by the tendency to lawlessness.

The ten years of turmoil had pushed the national economy to the brink of collapse; the number of urban young people seeking employment is growing and before finding a job, they just loaf around and are easily led astray. We have found jobs for several million young people in the past few years, but our unemployment problem has not been completely solved yet. Besides, it takes even longer time to clean up the poisonous ideological effects on them.

Bad, corruptive influences seep in from outside. China has increased its contacts with foreign countries in recent years. Our people now have the opportunity to get a glimpse of some of the more negative aspects of the Western way of life. Some young people lack the ability to discriminate between what is good and what is bad, they are simply fascinated by certain decadent things abroad and ape them avidly. For instance, a young teenager, overwhelmed by some of the scenes in an imported film, was led to commit rape.

Some parents pamper their children; once spoiled, they easily go wrong when their

yearning for something is not satisfied. Many young delinquents have this in common.

**Q:** What is the policy in reforming criminals?

**A:** Our point of departure is to educate and remould them in the hope that they will mend their ways and make a new start.

As stated in Chinese law, our policy towards criminals is one of punishment coupled with leniency. We do not just simply mete out punishment to a criminal and make him serve his term. We also want to reform a convict mainly through labour and ideological education so that in most cases, he can be converted to a new life by earning his own living through honest labour.

Our principle in handling convicts is punishment and surveillance coupled with ideological remoulding, and making them engage in productive labour while giving them ideological education. Maltreatment of prisoners and corporal punishment are strictly prohibited. Practice in the last 31 years following the founding of the People's Republic has borne out that the overwhelming majority of the convicts have

not only remoulded themselves ideologically but also formed the habit of working, acquired some professional skills and turned over a new leaf. Some have become outstanding workers in production and made contributions to socialist construction.

**Q:** How do you people handle criminal cases?

**A:** Well, take those who have committed rather serious crimes for example—such as arson, murder, robbery, rape, habitual thievery and swindling. The public security organs bring up the case to the people's procuratorate and when the latter has found that the details mentioned in the affair corroborate with the conclusive evidence, the case is then brought to a people's court for public prosecution. The court decides on the sentence—a few years' imprisonment, life imprisonment, capital punishment, surveillance or some form of custody.

In the case of street ruffians, petty thieves, and swindlers, whose offences are not very serious—they are not prosecuted as criminals; those who disturb the peace, make trouble for no reason at all, or interfere



Women inmates working in the hosiery factory run by the Beijing prison authorities.



in civil servants discharging their duties and who do not respond to repeated corrective education will be sent to a reformatory subject to review and approval by the Reformatory Committee\* under the Municipal People's Government. These persons are not convicts, their work is paid and, if they behave well in the reformatory, they can go home on holidays. It is a kind of coercive remoulding through education, a measure to nip a potential criminal in the bud.

Persons under 16 who have violated the law or committed a crime with the exception of those as are listed in the criminal law are not answerable to criminal charges and are taken care of by reformatories for the young.

Persons involved in borderline cases of law infraction and those under 16 committing less serious crimes, are sent to work-study schools under the direction of teachers experienced in that line, to help them recognize their misdeeds. There, they work and continue their studies in preparation for higher education or employment. These schools are run by the Bureau of Education, not the Bureau of Public Security. [See "Save the Teenage Delinquents" in our issue No. 44, 1979.]

\* The Reformatory Committee is a body under the Beijing Municipal People's Government. Its task is to examine the cases of those who are to go to a reformatory, give its approval, check up and give guidance in the work of educating people through labour. The committee has one director and the director has three assistants; the directorship is held concurrently by a vice-mayor, the posts of his assistants are filled by deputy-directors of the Bureau of Public Security, the Bureau of Labour and the Bureau of Civil Affairs.

**Q:** What about prisoners who fall ill, and women inmates who are expecting a child?

**A:** Article 157 of the Chinese Law of Criminal Procedure provides: Those who are sentenced to serve terms of imprisonment or life imprisonment or persons under detention may serve their terms outside prison, under one of the following conditions: (1) If they are seriously ill they may go out on bail to be hospitalized; (2) Women convicts who are pregnant or have a baby to breast-feed.

These convicts are supervised by the local police station in the precinct where they lived before they were imprisoned, with the direct surveillance of the grass-roots organization (such as a neighbourhood committee) or the unit they once belonged to. We also have hospitals and clinics in all our prisons, forced labour farms and reformatories for the young. Convicts suffering mild ailments may get free medical treatment on the spot.

**Q:** Is there corporal punishment?

**A:** There was during the ten years of turmoil. Special brutality and torture were meted out especially to "convicts" imprisoned on charge of opposing Lin Biao and the gang of four. Now our government has time and again issued orders forbidding this. Anyone



Inmates receiving inoculation against an epidemic disease.

who inflicts corporal punishment on a convict will be severely criticized, subject to disciplinary measures or punishable by law, depending on the case.

**Q:** Is it true that those released after having served their terms or those whose term of parole has expired, find it difficult to find jobs?

**A:** According to government regulations, these people should not be discriminated against in seeking employment. In reality, however, some units are not willing to employ them. We have, therefore, adopted two measures to solve the problem. One is to persuade the leadership of the unit concerned to accept him and the other is for the state to set up a certain quota in labour recruitment for these people.

## Visiting a Prison

ON my visit to a prison in Beijing, I saw that the main entrance is guarded by fully armed soldiers. I walked through a passageway lined with flower beds to reach its inner entrance which is guarded by another soldier. The whole

compound is surrounded by high walls reinforced by live electric wires and there is a watchtower at each of the four corners. A prison is after all a prison, and when you hear about some of the heinous crimes the inmates have committed, you will agree

that these security measures, however stringent, are justified.

This prison now has over 1,900 inmates, 125 of them women. Most of them have committed theft or rape, and many of the rest have committed robbery, murder or manslaughter, or have been abettors, speculators and grafters.

Most of the convicts here are on prison terms of three to seven years, while others have ten years or more, or life imprisonment. There are, however, some 20 convicts sentenced to death with two years' reprieve.

### Inside the Cell

Convicts live in prison houses, three for men and one for women. In the middle of each of the three houses for male convicts is a warder's lobby, connected with passageways leading in five directions. These passages are lined with cells on both sides, each cell about 20 sq.m., well-lighted, accommodating 11 to 12 inmates. One man on duty in the central lobby is enough to keep watch over these five passageways.

Bedding inside the cells is folded in a uniform square and placed against the wall. Wash basins, towels, jars for cleaning teeth and soap boxes are all in shipshape order. Against a wall with windows is a shelf lined with periodicals and books. On the wall inside of each cell is a sheet of paper with rules for inmates, giving in detail what should and should not be done.

At one end of each passageway is a washroom, a toilet, a recreation room and a room where eating utensils are kept. One end of the passageway leads to the prison workshops.

The whole place is very quiet, but does not have an atmosphere of tension. On the

walls in the passageways are charts indicating the indoor sanitary conditions. The inmates are organized into groups, squads and detachments. The tiny red flags on the charts represent a satisfactory condition, those in yellow, tolerable and those in green, poor. Most of the markers on the charts are red, a few yellow, and not a single one is green.

### Education

Once locked up, prisoners are set to thinking, and they have a wide variety of ideas. The warders give convicts a month's imprisonment education before they are sent to undergo reform through labour. This prison now has over 300 warders, mostly ex-servicemen or graduates from public security schools.

Some new convicts have all kinds of wrong thinking, and cannot see clearly the damaging effects of the crimes they have committed. Some may think the punishments meted out to them are too severe; others may emphasize the objective factors underlying their offences; quite a few feel pessimistic and see their future as hopeless. Imprisonment education is designed to help them throw off these ideological burdens. Warders during this period are required to find out the convicts' state of mind, take note of their characteristics and help them accordingly. Every bit of progress, however slight, should be encouraged in time to help the one concerned build up confidence, and every mistake made is to be criticized with help and education. Their daily life is well taken care of so that they may feel a warmth in human relations and thus learn to hate the harm they have done to others.

**Help From Kinsfolk.** After a month's education, convicts are sent to various detachments to take part in productive labour under the command of the warders. Once in the detachment the prison authorities set demands on an inmate, namely, to "remould himself as quickly as possible and to turn over a new leaf." On my visit I saw slogans on the walls in the passageways, inside the cells, workshops and hospital, in the kitchen, indeed everywhere I went: "Get to the bottom of your crimes, criticize your crimes, remould yourself quickly, and make a start towards a new life!"

The head warder told me that, apart from giving prisoners education in law, morality and discipline, the prison authorities also did everything to enlist the help of the various forces in society. For instance, they encourage convicts' family members to come and help them, ask model workers to come to give talks, and arrange to have ex-convicts who have behaved well, who have "gone straight" after having served their terms, come and share their experiences with these still in custody.

During my visit, some family members of the prisoners happened to be there to see them. Family members are allowed to come once a month. Under special conditions, with the consent of the prison authorities, they may come at any time. There was the wife of a convict named Fan (he was formerly a section head in an iron and steel company). When her husband's crime was first brought to light, she had been so ashamed that she refused to see him any more. The warder, after having studied the mental cast of the convict, felt that this would not



## An Ex-Convict's Story

**M**Y name is Lang Shihong, I was a worker at the People's Machinery Works in Beijing. I'm 37. My wife, 32, is a primary school teacher. We have a daughter who is looked after by her maternal grandmother. At first our family of four lived happily together; we got along well.

But this did not last long. My selfish ideas began to grow. To try to get rich, I started stealing small pieces of wood from the factory in 1974; then I became more daring and stole large pieces of timber. All this ended up by my becoming a burglar and stealing in my neighbourhood. It was not long before I was arrested and given four years in prison.

There, through education, I came to recognize my crime. I came to see that in doing these bad deeds, I had harmed society and some people, I had harmed my family and myself as well. I was determined to reform myself through diligent labour.

On my release four years later I was overjoyed to see my little daughter. She had grown much taller and almost failed to recognize me. My wife said to me earnestly: "From now on,

I expect to hear nothing but good reports about you from your factory; certainly not news of any more wrongdoing!" I told myself that I would never again let my wife down. In April 1979 I was given work in a building team. The team leader urged me to try to become a useful man in society. I was once sent to construct the factory building for a TV plant. I came forward ahead of others to take on the heavier, dirtier jobs. At the same time I cudgelled my brains to find ways to save materials, and did all I could to help finish the project on



Lang Shihong with his family.

schedule, quality guaranteed. With the help of more experienced workers, the group I belonged to succeeded in saving a lot of steel and other materials and were commended for this. At the end of the year, my group was cited as an advanced collective and I was elected an advanced worker! This year the leaders, who now have complete trust in me, made me take charge of a work section.

Twice in more than 12 months after I took up my present job, I found a lost wrist-watch on the street. I was alone when I found the first one; as that was in September 1979, I didn't have a watch and had long wished for one. But after an inner struggle, I decided that I should get a watch through my own labour. I must not try again to get anything for nothing. As the saying goes, nothing is for nothing. So I handed it in to the leadership and before long it was returned to its rightful owner. Last June I found another one on the street and also returned it to the owner.

My wife and I together earn more than 120 yuan a month. Our family of four gets along quite comfortably on our wages, and we are happy again, with confidence in the future.

help him mend his ways. He tried to persuade the wife to come to see her husband and to co-operate with the prison authorities to help him. The convict was very grateful to the warder and expressed his determination to break with his ugly past. After that his behaviour in prison showed a big improvement and he was commended many times. In 1978 his term of imprisonment was reduced by a year. He has recently been released in parole.

**Solitary Confinement.** There are a few convicts who refuse to

take instructions from the warders, or who get into fistfights; when they do, they are punished. If the case is very serious, the one involved is put into solitary confinement. Any prisoner who uses violence will be handcuffed and fettered; this becomes necessary in the case of only a few individuals. During solitary confinement (usually three to seven days, a fortnight at the longest), the prisoner is discharged from labour and allowed no contact with the other inmates; the moment he shows repentance, his confinement is ended and he is sent back to his detachment.

## Labour

Most of the convicts, before they went there, started indulging in the bad habit of seeking personal gain at the expense of others, or of enjoying a leisurely life, and disliked labour. From there they slipped further on into the pit of crime. One very important way to remould them is to bring them to see that they should support themselves through honest labour. For this purpose, the prison authorities set up a mill making socks and a factory making plastic sandals.

### Humanitarianism

During my visit I heard many times the head warder and his staff speak of treating convicts like human beings and making them feel a warmth in human relationships. With this as their point of departure, the prison authorities treat the convicts in a humanitarian way.

— Like factories outside, the prison workshops have an eight-hour work-day. Inmates have eight hours' sleep a day, a day off every week, and days off on national holidays. These are spent in recreational activities inside the prison.

— A monthly living expense of 15 yuan for each convict (which is about the same as the average cost on food of an urban dweller). Three meals a day; special dishes for those of Hui nationality who do not eat pork, and for vegetarians.

— Each convict is allowed 2.5 yuan a month, with an extra 0.5 yuan for women convicts to buy more toilet paper etc.; a haircut every month; a bath every two weeks (I was told that measures were being taken to provide facilities for the convicts to have baths more often).

— There is a hospital, complete with various departments, staffed with over 40 medical personnel, and a ward with over 60 beds. Minor surgical operations can be performed there. The equipment is rather simple, and those who are seriously ill may go out on bail for hospitalization.

— When a member of the convict's family is dying or dead, or under other certain conditions, the convict may obtain approval to go home to see his family and help with the necessary household arrangements.

— Two or three evenings a week, there are TV prog-

rammes, films or other recreational activities organized by the inmates themselves.

— Wardens often have person-to-person talks with prisoners or hold meetings with them to help them recognize the crimes they have committed, analyse the factors which led to them and work out measures for speeding up their self-remoulding.

### Turning Over a New Leaf

I was interested in learning how the convicts behaved inside the prison and after their release. Xing Zhonghe, the assistant head warder, said: "After years of education in the prison, the greater part of them are willing to be remoulded; only very few refuse."

For those who behave correctly, the authorities often send written suggestions to the higher level for examination before they are forwarded to the court for final decision to reduce their prison terms; in cases of convicts who commit new crimes during their terms of imprisonment, or those who are found to have committed crimes not yet discovered at the time the sentence was given, and whose terms of imprisonment should therefore be prolonged, the authorities also



Skilled inmates are given a chance to play a part in production.

During my visit I saw many convicts in prison garb working in an orderly way. The machines used here are a bit old but the products are well received on the market. More than 70 varieties of socks and over 20 different types of sandals are made in the prison workshops. The demand for some varieties of stockings and a kind of brown coloured sandal for women is so great that the supply just cannot keep up.

The whirl of the machines is the only sound that can be heard in the workshops where labour disciplines are strict. Those who do a good job can get a quarterly bonus of 7 to 15 yuan. Those who do not do their jobs well are criticized in the group they belong to. In the last quarter of 1980, 80 per cent of the convicts were given cash awards. Those with professional skills get an extra five yuan every month.

A convict who behaves well not necessarily has great skills in production. He may take part in workshop management, or work as an accountant, warehouse janitor, or quality control operator; he may even take part in miscellaneous chores like sanitation work, serving meals and fetching drinking water.



Prisoners playing a game of cards on a rest day.





Prisoners prepare their own meals themselves.

present their views to the procuratorate for it to take action according to the legal procedure and for the court to give a verdict. In 1979, there were 89 convicts whose prison terms were shortened; only two got longer terms.

Most inmates after release behave properly. Only very few commit new crimes (see table).

Year	Rate of New Criminal Offences
1949-66	2-3 per cent
1967-76	11 per cent
1977-80	3-4 per cent

## Reformatory

**I**N China, as a general rule, no criminal sanctions are imposed upon 14 to 16-year-old adolescents who have violated the law. Minor offenders will be sent to special disciplinary schools and those whose cases are more serious will be sent to reformatories.

The Beijing Municipal Reformatory, located in the city's

northern suburb, was set up in 1955. Fifty-one of the 1,008 juvenile delinquents there at present are girls. The inmates are organized into 12 boys' teams and one girls' team. They spend half a day on study and half on work. Some have jobs at the reformatory factory, while most work in the fields — raising wheat and vegetables and cultivating orchards.

## "Boarding School"

This correspondent paid a visit to the reformatory. At the front gates one sees two boards on which are the Chinese characters "Beijing Municipal Reformatory" and "Beijing Dynamo Plant." Vice-director Yang Dewen of the reformatory showed me around. We walked through the apple and peach orchards, the vineyard and the plant while work was in progress. The youngsters who were weeding, spraying insecticide or fixing up generators still looked very much like children. It was hard to believe that these well-disciplined, hard-working boys and girls were once hooligans and law-breakers who fought, stole, robbed and made trouble.

In the classroom of the girls' team, the students were listening attentively to a Chinese lesson given by a young woman teacher wearing glasses. After class, the teacher told me: "Discipline in the class is good. The children are very earnest in study, because, as they say, they must make up for lost time. These children are very impressionable. They committed crimes before they had grown up, and since they are still in their formative years, are quite malleable. I'm convinced they can turn over a new leaf so long as we do our work well."

At this reformatory, classes of junior middle school and pri-



A teacher (right) helping a student.

mary school are set up for the study of Chinese, maths and other subjects according to the inmates' levels of education. Since August 1979, 35 teachers who have relatively high teaching qualifications and are enthusiastic have been transferred there from other schools by the city education bureau, and more such teachers are expected.

"It's like a boarding school" — this was my first impression of the reformatory. There were no armed guards or sentries. Did this mean the delinquents could easily run away if they felt like it? Yes, I was told that 100 or so had done so in 1979 and another 83 had run away in 1980. But some of them were later sent back by the police, the residents' committees or their parents, and some came back of their own accord.

The dormitories I visited were clean and tidy. Collective life there is strictly disciplined but not monotonous. A boy told me: "I used to be very lackadaisical. My parents spoiled me and I led a sort of parasitic life. And I never cared about law and order and didn't know what discipline meant. Now I have to look after myself and follow all sorts of rules and regulations in everything I do from the moment I get up. There's morning exercises, regular meals on time, study, work, playing games and a set time for going to bed. I have come to appreciate this, in fact, because it helps me change my bad habits and remould my ideology."

### "Acting Parents"

The delinquents here are looked after by public security personnel and teachers who are law enforcement personnel, educators and parents all at the same time. A team leader told me: "All parents want to see

their children grow up to become decent people, they don't abandon them just because they commit crimes. Now, since the youngsters are away from home, we must take over their parents' job. When they are sick, we take them to the hospital and make sure they take their medicines on time; we fix up all the shower baths before summer comes and light stoves for them in cold weather. Sometimes a few of them get into fights. We always use persuasion to stop them. Some parents are so disappointed and dis-



Two boys talk to the rhythm of clackers, one of the rich recreational activities in the reformatory.

traught by their children that they don't want to come to see them. In these cases, we often pay visits to the parents and try to persuade them to come." (Parents are allowed to visit their children here once a month.)

Persistent efforts are bound to succeed. Some seemingly trivial things can touch the hearts of the delinquents. A boy named Liang Zhu said: "Our parents took care of us after work. The team leaders and teachers here also have families but why don't they go home? This is all for us. They want to see us grow up healthily and become decent people. We should feel guilty if we let them down."

### "Test"

Inmates usually stay 1-3 years. Since 1979 a "test" system has been on trial according to which those who behave comparatively well are allowed to go home after being institutionalized for a certain period of time. Their parents and the related residents' committees make arrangements for them to go back to their former school, find some odd job in a factory or stay at home to help with the housework. During this test period, if the school, factory or

the residents' committee think a former offender has really changed, they will write a positive evaluation to the reformatory. On approval by the reformatory, the child will be released from the reformatory. Those who fail the test will be brought back.

Two years' practice has proved the system to be quite effective. In 1979, eight of the 82 who underwent this test were later sent back to the reformatory, and two committed new crimes. Last year, 17 were allowed to go home. One committed a new crime, another one was sent back to the reformatory for fighting, and all the others were released before their terms were up. □



## FILMS

**New Themes Emerging**

A number of new films on subjects previously under taboo in China's art world are now being shown throughout the country. This has been seen as an important breakthrough in the longstanding controversial question of whether literature and other art forms should be allowed to depict the mistakes and tragedies of socialist China.

*Legend of Mount Tianyun* is one of the first films in China to describe the 1957 nationwide political movement which defeated the attacks by the bourgeois Rightists against the Party and the socialist system. The perspective presented in the movie is that the aim of the anti-Rightist movement was correct but the results were often not; the struggle eventually was extended to cause suffering for many innocent people.

Luo Qun, the tragic hero of the film, is an energetic young man working in a surveying team on Mount Tianyun.

During the movement, he is wrongly classified as a Rightist and sent to the remote countryside to do manual labour. As a result, his fiancée is forced to break relations with this new "class enemy." Nevertheless, Luo Qun never loses faith in the Party and continues to devote himself to the revolutionary cause. Another woman from the surveying team knows Luo Qun well and sympathizes with him in his sufferings, and eventually they marry. Finally Luo is rehabilitated, but the movie ends on a tragic note: his wife, whose health deteriorates under adverse conditions, dies.

Another new film, *Maple*, shows in detail one of the hallmarks of the "cultural revolution"—the violent factional fighting among young Red Guards. The film realistically portrays the innocence, youthfulness and enthusiasm of two middle school students before they join antagonistic factions. Later they are driven to frenzied violence by Jiang Qing and company, and are killed in senseless fighting between the different factions.

The maple leaf is a recurrent symbol in the film of the love between the two youths and of the wasted years of many young people during this period.

Both of these controversial new films were adapted from novels by contemporary Chinese authors. Critics have given the films mixed reviews, and a number of people still oppose their screening today. Nevertheless, the majority of Chinese audiences who have seen the films do not feel that these works are harmful to China or socialism.

In their opinion, these films, especially the *Legend of Mount Tianyun*, review a period in history during which the faith and character of the Chinese people withstood many rigid tests. The films also made audiences reflect on how such tragedies can be prevented in the future.

**1980 Film Data**

- China produced 80 feature films in 1980, a 20 per cent increase over the previous year.
- Fifteen co-productions with foreign countries have recently been finished or are currently in progress.
- In the first ten months of last year, film audiences throughout the country numbered 4,500 million, a slight increase over the same period in 1979.
- China now has 11 feature film studios, four studios for scientific and educational films, one newsreel and documentary film studio, one animation film studio and one national studio for translating and dubbing foreign films.



A scene from the film "Legend of Mount Tianyun."



## PUBLICATION

### *Study of the Mawangdui Corpse*

How has a female corpse remained well preserved for 2,100 years? This question and others are answered in detail in the book *Study of an Ancient Cadaver in Mawangdui Tomb No. 1*, which was recently published by the Cultural Relics Press.

The female corpse was excavated in 1972 from a tomb of the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-220 A.D.) at Mawangdui on the outskirts of Changsha in central China. Scientists have determined that the woman, who lived to be more than 50 years old, was the wife of Licang, the Marquis of Dai. The corpse weighed 34.3 kilogrammes, approximately 50 per cent of its estimated weight in life. Its trunk and limbs were comparatively intact and the soft tissues even retained a degree of elasticity. The internal organs, although shrunken, were still soft and fairly well preserved.

This new publication gives detailed research data on the degrees of preservation of the corpse, its skin, hair, internal organs and cells, as well as on the causes of this excellent preservation and the origin of an antibacterial fluid that gradually developed inside the coffin.

Medical scientists have also recorded the results of a careful investigation they conducted into the causes of the ancient noble woman's death. It has been concluded that she probably suffered from several serious diseases, including general arteriosclerosis, coronary heart disease, multiple gallstones and schistosomiasis japonica. The woman probably died of an acute attack of gall-



The Mawangdui corpse in its plexiglass viewing case.

stones. Such intensive research into an ancient corpse is rare.

The deceased woman's mouth was covered with a mask and her body was wrapped in 20 layers of quilts, silk shrouds and hemp fabrics; she was then fitted into an air-tight coffin of good quality; finally, the coffin was buried nearly 20 metres underground in a hermetically sealed chamber with walls of thick white clay. The entire chamber was thus effectively isolated from the upper atmosphere. The gradual accumulation of the antibacterial fluid within the coffin also prevented the growth of putrefactive bacteria which would have caused decay.

This book includes a comprehensive report on the study of the ancient corpse, 19 papers on special topics and four essays for discussion. There are more than 300 plates in both colour and black and white. Photographs of cells and tissues as seen through a microscope are also given in this book.

## GEOLOGY

### *Sinking City Under Control*

Shanghai, China's largest industrial city, has almost halted the sinking of its ground sur-

face in recent years. Between 1921 and 1965, ground level bench marks in some Shanghai districts subsided by as much as 2.63 metres. A series of measures have been adopted since the 1960s, such as tapping less underground water and replenishing it with used water. As a result, the sinking has been slowed to an annual rate of only one or two millimetres in recent years.

The main reason for the subsidence, specialists have confirmed, is the overtapping of underground water. In the past, many new wells were sunk at will without overall planning or supervision. This greatly lowered the water table and gradually caused the ground level to fall as well. The key to solving this problem is a rational utilization of underground water resources.

Scientists are now citing Shanghai's experience as an example for other Chinese cities to follow; Beijing, Tianjin, Xian, Taiyuan, Wuxi, Ningbo and the Yangtze River delta are all facing the same problem to varying degrees. Work units are also being urged to help each other tap underground water resources in a rational way, and to engage in joint scientific research to understand and control this problem.



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